

### **National Office**

- Major upcoming events include:
  - LCC staff working session, NGO briefings and Congressional updates – February 22-24 in Arlington and Washington, D.C.
  - National LCC Workshop – Denver, March 27-28, 2012. For info go to:  
[www.nationallcc2012.com](http://www.nationallcc2012.com)
- The USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center (NCCWSC) hosted a two-day working session to update key partners on the status of the NCCWSC and the eight regional Climate Science Centers (CSC) and collect input from partners about the direction and activities of the endeavor. The workshop was attended by Deanna Spooner (PICCC Coordinator), Rich Leopold (USFWS Region 3 ARD for Science Applications, Greg Wathen Coordinator of Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC) and Doug Austen.
- Development of the concept, role, purpose and structure for a national LCC council continued through work with the U.S. Institute for Conflict Resolution (ECR) and their subcontractor, EnviroIssues. A two-day work session was held in Arlington on January 9-10 and included participants from states, federal agencies, NGO's and tribal interests. Notes from this workshop will be distributed for comment in early February.
- Continued implementation of a national LCC communications plan that includes this document (monthly LCC status reports), development of a national annual report, new design and hosting of a web site, and other tools that will better convey the work of the LCC's.

### **Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands (ABSI) LCC**

- The ABSI LCC coordinator made presentations in person at the Aleut Marine Mammal Commission Annual Meeting (12/2) and a North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting (12/7) about LCCs in Alaska, and introduced the newly-forming ABSI LCC.
- The coordinator also met with staff from the [North Pacific Research Board](#) to discuss the possibility of forming a partnership between our two entities. As a result of this meeting, the coordinator prepared a proposal for consideration by the ABSI LCC Interim Steering Committee. The coordinator also prepared a proposal for the development of a science plan/strategy for the ABSI LCC.
- Both proposals were sent to the Interim Steering Committee and are on the agenda for discussion at their next meeting scheduled for January 20, 2012. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2012 Alaska Marine Science Symposium. Immediately following the meeting, there will be a "Listening Session" that will allow the Interim Steering Committee to hear ideas from resource managers and researchers with an interest in the ABSI LCC region about how the ABSI LCC can help address unmet science needs. The coordinator will also be giving a poster presentation at the Symposium on January 16, 2012.

### **Appalachian LCC:**

- Following the highly successful Conservation Priorities Science Needs Workshop in November of 2011, the Appalachian Interim Steering Committee (ISC) met on December 8, 2011 to discuss recommendations for top science needs identified at the workshop. The ISC selected the top five ranked science needs for development of specific project descriptions, in anticipation of directing LCC funding support. Expert partners were nominated for each of these top five science needs, and

the five teams were then tasked with writing 1-3 project descriptions for each science need by the end of January.

- The ISC will select projects in February, after which vendors recommended by the teams will be engaged, and the best qualified will be selected no later than March of 2012.
- A Synthesis Report of the Science Needs Workshop was prepared in December of 2011, and is available for viewing at [Appalachian LCC Conservation Priorities Science Needs Workshop \[Nov 29-30, 2011\] - Appalachian LCC](#). (Refer to page 5 of the Synthesis Report for the Appalachian LCC's Top Science Needs, as determined by the 150 expert partner participants). The Full Workshop Report will be completed in January of 2012, and will also be posted on the LCC website.

### **Arctic LCC**

- ALCC Staff and many of its partners attended the NCTC Vulnerability Assessment Course in Anchorage during the week of November 14<sup>th</sup>. About a month later, the ALCC-funded Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Breeding Birds in the Arctic Workshop was held in Anchorage. This workshop, organized and executed by the Wildlife Conservation Society, focused on arctic breeding birds and concerned itself with review of species specific input from experts on each of 54 bird species. At the workshop, experts on Arctic Breeding birds from Alaska were joined by colleagues from Russia, Canada, Uruguay, and Mexico for two full days of presentations, discussion, critique of the NatureServe Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI) assessment tool, and analysis of results. Revised analysis, based on workshop input, and a final report are forthcoming.
- A webinar on the ALCC-funded BIOMap Alaska project was held on December 6<sup>th</sup>, where PI's received valuable input from arctic experts from many agencies and NGOs, including the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, which is undertaking an ALCC-funded project that has the potential for notable collaboration with the BIOMap project.
- Glen Liston, one of the world's foremost experts in the field of snow physics, presented a Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> webinar (Let it Snow) highlighting his ALCC-funded efforts in modeling polar bear maternal denning habitats, and how the same sort of environmental information used in developing that model could have broad applicability to arctic wildlife biologists in determining how future snow conditions could affect other winter resident species.

### **California LCC:**

- A full day Steering Committee meeting was held on December 15, 2011. CA LCC Staff presented results from the first phase of our strategic planning process. See [report](#). This was the first face-to-face meeting with new members. The purpose of the meeting was to:
  - Foster Steering Committee collaboration and get to know one another
  - Review Phase I strategic planning summary report
  - Get approval for next steps of strategic planning and Science plan development
  - Establish and assign Subcommittee tasks. Subcommittees include Strategic Planning, Communications, and Science.
  - The notes from the meeting are posted on the [website](#):
- The CA LCC Steering Committee Chair and other members participated in a kick-off meeting for the Southwest Climate Science Center at the California State University Sacramento. At the meeting, representatives from various state, tribal, and federal agencies discussed how to define the science agenda for long-term climate science planning and action across all of our organizations. The daylong meeting also included governance, decision-making, science planning and representational gaps.
- CA LCC hired a Communication Specialist, Mike Ward, who will start mid January. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> position supporting the CA LCC, including one funded by USGS.

**Caribbean LCC:**

- The CLCC Steering Committee expanded and now includes twelve individuals representing nine federal and three commonwealth or territorial governmental entities.
- We have contracted services to develop a CLCC web site that will serve as a focal point for sharing news, information and geospatial data for the region.
- We have hired an individual to serve as an administrative assistant for the program. Marixa Maldonado is a student in environmental studies who will help coordinate meetings and facilitate the development of documentation of the CLCC charter, goals, and activities.
- The CLCC coordinator presented on the CLCC and on *Building federal and local partnerships for climate adaptation in the Caribbean* at the EPA sponsored meeting *Climate Change in the Caribbean 2001: Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands*, held in mid November in San Juan, PR. We also had a steering committee meeting at this activity.
- We have a research effort working on modeling future hydrology scenarios. We have solicited applications for a postdoctoral research position to model vegetation dynamics and we are arranging support for research to model urban growth scenarios for the CLCC. This research, in conjunction with downscaled climate models being developed at Texas Tech University, will serve as a foundation on which to understand wildlife and natural resource implications of future scenarios.
- Three CLCC related presentations were given at the EPA sponsored meeting *Climate Change in the Caribbean 2001: Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands*:
  - Global Climate Change 101 and Possible Future Climate Conditions for the U.S. Caribbean - Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, Atmospheric Scientist, Texas Tech University.
  - Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies for Resident Avifauna - Dr. Jaime Collazo, Professor of Biology and Assistant Unit Leader, USGS North Carolina Cooperative Research Unit, Department of Biology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh.
  - Barriers to ecosystem resiliency in the face of climate change – Dr. Adam Terando climate scientist and research coordinator, North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, North Carolina State University, Raleigh.

**Desert LCC:**

- In December, the Administrative Working Group completed the Desert LCC Governance Document and Operations Plan and provided them to the Steering Committee for approval and adoption.
- The Science Working Group and the Tribal Working Group worked with their groups, the Steering Committee and other DLCC partners requesting and receiving ideas for potential science projects to be supported both technically and financially through the LCC partnership.
- The DLCC Coordinators worked with the Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chair to develop an agenda and prepare for the January 12, 2012 Steering Committee meeting (via conference call).

**Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers (ETPBR) LCC**

- The ETBR LCC Secured co-chairs for the ETPBR interim Steering Committee: Marc Miller, Illinois DNR director and Charlie Wooley, R3 Deputy RD.
- All 11 States within the geographical LCC framework were contacted to determine their level of involvement in the new LCC; eight of the 11 are willing to participate in a Steering Committee and three want to be informed of progress.

- Final plans and preparations were made for the first preliminary planning committee meeting for the ETPBR LCC to be held January 17-18 at the Illinois DNR headquarters. This will primarily be a gathering of State agency leaders, the FWS and the Illinois Natural History Survey.
- The ETPBR LCC presented paper at the climate change symposium held at the Midwest. Fish and Wildlife Conference in Des Moines, IA.
- The ETPBR LCC gave LCC presentation to Indiana Project WILD facilitators.
- The ETPBR LCC met with NPS representative to discuss involvement in ETPBR LCC.
- The ETPBR LCC drafted position description for Science Advisor position.

### **Great Basin LCC:**

- In December, the GBLCC coordinator participated in a kick-off meeting for the Southwest Climate Science Center at the California State University Sacramento. At the meeting, representatives from various state, tribal, and federal agencies discussed how to define the science agenda for long-term climate science planning and action across all of our organizations. The daylong meeting also included governance, decision-making, science planning and representational gaps.
- Attended stakeholder meeting at Naval Air Station Fallon, to provide information on the Great Basin LCC. The installation is currently undergoing a revision of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and requested LCC staff participation. Provided new information on current status of sage grouse planning on behalf of BLM.
- Participated in the development and review of objectives to test key aspects of the Yale Framework by integrating results from two BLM Rapid Ecological Assessments with core recommendations from the Framework along the ecotone between the Central Great Basin and Mojave Desert Ecoregions.
- The Great Basin LCC has a webinar scheduled for its steering committee on January 31, to discuss priorities. This is a follow-up from the November Steering Committee meeting, which was held in conjunction with the Great Basin Consortium meeting at the University of Nevada.
- Todd Hopkins has made the permanent change of station move to Reno, NV.

### **Great Plains LCC:**

- In December, a document was reviewed and finalized by the Science Coordinator, LCC Coordinator and the Science Committee for submittal to the Steering Committee. The document is a synopsis of a Science Planning Workshop hosted by the Science Coordinator in October that brought together 37 scientists from partners of the GPLCC to explore the science needs and develop strategies to achieve those needs for five priority issues defined by the Steering Committee at the June 2011 meeting.
- A Science Webinar "*Ecological Mapping Systems of the Texas High Plains*" will be Webcast on January 11. Please go to [www.gplcc.org](http://www.gplcc.org) for details.
- The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for January 25-26, 2012 in Lubbock, Texas.

### **Great Northern LCC**

- Supported by Montana State University Institute on Ecosystems, the LCC made significant progress on the development of a Strategic Conservation Framework. Hosted three Advisory Team calls to review the document, leading to a February 22-23 workshop to complete recommendations on the Framework. The Framework process will be reviewed and completed during a steering committee

meeting May 14-15. The Framework will clearly establish the top Conservation Priorities for the GNLCC.

- Developed and launched a new website <http://greatnorthernlcc.org>. This site is a stand-alone dot-org site with easy navigation, excellent graphics, and up-to-date information.
- Hosting a Steering Committee conference call January 10, 2012.
- Planning in-person Steering Committee meeting, May 14-15, 2012, in Kamloops, British Columbia, hosted by the Province of British Columbia.
- Participated on the Federal Coordination Team for the America's Great Outdoors Crown of the Continent Focus Area; led the Connectivity theme for the AGO Crown Workplan.
- Coordinated with British Columbia, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, DOI, and State of Montana to develop a workplan supporting the BC-MT Flathead MOU.

### **Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks (GCPO) LCC:**

- December 2011 - Laurie Rounds (NOAA-LCC Gulf Coast Liaison) attended the Gulf Summit in Houston, TX, where the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Strategy was released.
- Greg Wathen (GCPO LCC Coordinator) also attended the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center Partners Dialogue meeting in Arlington, VA, in early December.
- January 2012 - GCPO LCC Conservation Science Staff will be meeting with staff from the USGS National Wetland Center and Geosystems Research Institute, Mississippi State University, to explore opportunities for collaboration, and then have a quarterly staff meeting to initiate planning for the GCPO LCC Spring Steering Committee meeting.
- Greg Wathen and John Tirpak (GCPO LCC Science Coordinator) will also be meeting with the Alligator Gar Technical Committee in late January in Biloxi, MS, to discuss the potential of initiating a Mississippi River basin-wide management plan for alligator gar, and what role the GCPO LCC might offer to that effort.

### **Gulf Coast Prairie (GCP) LCC:**

- The Coordinator and Science Strike Team initiated final development of the Science Charter and completed four (4) science proposals. Progress for these tasks, which were identified by the GCPLCC Steering Committee during November 2011, were presented and reviewed during a December 16, conference call and webinar: *Tasks included - Science Strike Team re-engaged to complete (a) Development and Operations Plan [PLAN]; (b) Science Proposals; (c) complete Science Charter which will incorporate national conservation efforts (SE CAS, WGA); and (d) initiate a Communication Working Group.* A planned January 20, 2012 GCPLCC Steering Committee conference call will (1) Review, discuss and approve final modifications to the Science Charter; (2) Plan and set the stage for an upcoming Science Forum to be convened February 21-22 in Fort Worth Texas, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter and Southwest Section of the Wildlife Society; and (3) Move for approval of date and location for the next GCPLCC Steering Committee meeting proposed for June 26-28 in Norman OK.
- Through the partnership with the Wildlife Management Institute, Letters of Interest were sent to 20 partner – vendors to initiate negotiations for agreements of projects: (1) In-stream Flow; (2) Coastal Habitat Model; (3) OK Landcover; and (4) Decision support tool (Mottled Duck habitat).
- USGS Senior Biologist Dr. James (Bruce) Moring and NOAA Gulf Coast LCC liaison Laurie Rounds, were introduced to the Steering Committee in November, and initiated involvement with the



GCPLCC as shared support positions to increase science capacity and leadership. Laurie Rounds attended the December 5-8, 2011 Gulf of Mexico Summit on behalf of NOAA and the gulf coast LCCs.

### North Atlantic LCC:

- The North Atlantic LCC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are hosting and archiving a series of webinars on a conservation framework and the North Atlantic LCC projects that fit into that framework. The [November](#) webinar described the Northeast Conservation Framework and the [December](#) webinar described an approach for *Evaluating the Vulnerabilities of Ecological Resources to Climate Change in the Northeast* by Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and NatureServe. The broad regional approaches described in these webinars will be complemented by specific assessments of landscape change and climate change and related decision support tools in coastal, terrestrial and aquatic systems. Webinars are planned for January on *Forecast effects of accelerating sea-level rise on the habitat of Atlantic Coast piping plovers and identify responsive conservation strategies*, in February on *Forecasting changes in aquatic systems and resilience of aquatic populations* and in March on *Providing Science and Tools in Support of the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative: Designing Sustainable Landscapes for Wildlife in the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative*.

### North Pacific LCC:

- The Steering Committee adopted its **official charter** on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. This charter spells out the NPLCC's mission, goals, guiding principles, as well as the LCC's business functions such as Steering Committee composition, operating procedures and staffing. The charter will be posted on our web site soon; contact John Mankowski (360 535-9330) if you want an advance copy.
- The Steering Committee established a Tribal/First Nations Committee and Science/Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Communications & Outreach, and Partnership Liaison subcommittees. They also reviewed and discussed our annual workplan.
- The LCC worked with Washington area tribes on how they can engage in the NPLCC, including the possibility to the NPLCC sponsoring a tribal climate change summit in spring of 2012.
- The NPLCC met with USFWS Region 1 planning and refuge staff and leadership to discuss the NPLCC and how it can be used as a resource for assessing and advancing their conservation priorities for Landscape Level Planning & NWRS Land Protection Plans.
- The NPLCC met with researchers at University of WA and staff working on the Western Governor's Association's Wildlife Corridors project to discuss how the NPLCC and help build climate change scenarios for WGA's Crucial Habitats and Corridors Initiative.
- The NPLCC participated in a meeting of the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network to discuss how the NPLCC endeavors to engage tribes and first nations in the structure and activities of the NPLCC.
- The NPLCC delivered a presentation on the NPLCC to the Association of Oregon Counties and discussed how NPLCC-funded research and information can help meet the needs of local governments dealing with changing natural resources conditions.
- The NPLCC delivered a presentation on the NPLCC to the Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (PNW CESU), a cooperative venture between 17 leading academic institutions in the Pacific Northwest region, one state agency and ten federal land management and natural resource research organizations. They are particularly interested in how the NPLCC can coordinate regional research priorities for FY 2012.

- The NPLCC Science Coordinator attended the Northwest National Climate Assessment Risk Framing Workshop. The goals of the workshop were to 1) Discuss consequences & adaptation strategies of climate risks to the NW region, 2) Provide opportunity for input on and organization of the NW technical input, and 3) Build capacity for a long-term, sustained regional assessment process.
- The NPLCC participated in the North Cascadia Adaptation Partnership's science workshop addressing climate change impacts to vegetation and adaptation planning.

**Northwestern Interior Forest (NWIF) LCC:**

- On December 5, 2012 John DeLapp (Conservation Partnerships coordinator for USFWS Alaska Region) began a 90 day detail as Interim Coordinator of the NWIF LCC.
- On December 12 the NWIF LCC held its second Interim Steering Committee (ISC) meeting in Anchorage Alaska. Several members joined by videoconference in Fairbanks and via teleconference from both Canada and the U.S. During the first ISC meeting in October 2011, it was set as a first priority to engage Canadian partners and a Canadian Outreach Subcommittee was formed. At the December meeting, the subcommittee gave a progress update and a report is currently being drafted. Also during this meeting, a draft Tribal/First Nations Outreach Strategy was drafted. Native liaisons from the region were present at the meeting to provide insight and advice for the strategy which is slated to be completed early in 2012.
- The December ISC meeting began the governance process for the NWIF LCC. The ISC drafted shared goals and visions statements for review in January 2012 and initiated charter development. A follow-up meeting is being scheduled for early February 2012 to build on the progress of December's ISC meeting.

**Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative (PICCC):**

- In December the PICCC team focused on developing project implementation guidance for the newly developed Integrated Science Framework (ISF) adopted by the Steering Committee in November. The ISF is the first output of an iterative, ongoing science planning process that engages researchers and resource managers in identifying priority research focus areas and decision-support tool development for the PICCC to pursue and fund in FY2012 and beyond. In January 2012, the PICCC and the newly established Pacific Islands Climate Science Center will be convening key agency and academic research institutions to identify capabilities and gaps in moving forward with ISF implementation.
- On November 30 – December 1, the PICCC Coordinator participated in the CSC national partners dialogue held in Arlington, VA, followed by a day of LCC briefings with National Coordinator Doug Austen at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and DOI in Washington, D.C.
- On December 16<sup>th</sup> the PICCC Executive Council and Core Team members met with USFWS Director Dan Ashe in Honolulu to discuss the LCC's accomplishments as well as plans for FY12. Additionally, the PICCC Coordinator and Science Manager facilitated several climate change discussions with Director Ashe, NOAA Regional Climate Director John Marra, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Director William Aila, National Wildlife Refuge managers, university and agency climate scientists, and others at Midway Atoll NWR, Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve (O'ahu), and various sites on Mauna Kea (Hawai'i Island), all of which are managed for endangered native and endemic seabirds, forest birds, monk seals, sea turtles, and plants.
- In collaboration with NOAA and the Pacific RISA, the PICCC is co-leading the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA). This is a long-term endeavor that, in the near-term, will form the basis of the Pacific Islands chapter of the National Climate Assessment as well as produce a stand-alone assessment of the state-of-the-knowledge of climate science and climate change impacts in the

region. In December, a preliminary output funded by the PICCC was delivered by NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center researchers – a first-ever synthesis of observed and modeled climate-related trends for marine ecosystems in the region (e.g., sea-surface temperature, ocean chemistry, changes in currents, etc.).

- The PICCC's Cultural Adaptation Coordinator participated in a three day indigenous leaders meeting with representatives from throughout the Pacific Islands region. The meeting was part of preparatory efforts leading up to a summer symposium on climate change and indigenous peoples co-sponsored by the Smithsonian and NOAA.
- On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the PICCC Coordinator participated on a live televised panel discussion on climate change in Hawai'i hosted by PBS Hawaii. Other panelists were NOAA Regional Climate Director John Marra, Hawai'i State Office of Planning Director Jesse Souki, and Professor Maxine Burkett of the University of Hawai'i Law School Center for Climate Adaptation and Policy.

### **Peninsular Florida LCC:**

- The PFLCC started developing a draft strategic plan based on results of a Core Team planning meeting.
- The PFLCC established an interim Steering Committee of 14 partners which will meet for the first time on January 19<sup>th</sup> to review a draft charter and discuss formation of working groups.
- The PFLCC continued work on framing a process to develop a Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy which will cover the geography of the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- The PFLCC provided a briefing on the PFLCC to the CARE committee (Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement) at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. This is an NGO based group of 22 conservation organizations that provides support and advocates for additional funding for national wildlife refuges.
- The PFLCC conducted outreach about potential involvement in the PFLCC to the South Florida Water Management District and Lykes Bros, Inc. (a private landowner that owns 350,000 contiguous acres in south-central Florida).
- The PFLCC attended two workshops representing the PFLCC. The first was the Florida Climate Institute's annual workshop in Gainesville, FL on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The second was the Gulf of Mexico Summit which was held December 8-11<sup>th</sup> in Houston, TX. Both workshops resulted in new professional contacts and opportunities to collaborate in the future to leverage resources.

### **Plains and Prairie Potholes (PPP) LCC:**

- The PPP LCC monthly Science Webinar for December featured Dr. Robert Crabtree with the Yellowstone Ecosystem Research Center on *"Using ArcGIS-ready Geospatial Data Products for Species and Habitat Analysis in Decision-Making"*
- In response to the 2012 Request for Proposals announced in November, the PPP LCC received 61 project proposals totaling nearly \$15 million dollars in requests.
- The PPP LCC Coordinator, Science Coordinator and Technical Committee spent the first three weeks in December reviewing and ranking the 61 proposals.
- The review and ranking process resulted in 15 of the 61 projects being selected for a final ranking by the Technical Committee and recommendations on which to fund with available 2012 money. These 15 projects along with specific funding recommendations were sent to the PPP LCC Steering Committee on December 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The PPP LCC Steering Committee met on January 6<sup>th</sup> in San Diego in conjunction with the WAFWA winter meeting and selected five projects that will be funded with the 2012 allocation.



- On behalf of the Region 3 LCCs (UMGL, ETGP&BR, PPP) the PPP LCC Coordinator and PPP LCC Science Coordinator attended the Region 3 Refuges and ES Project Leaders meetings and made presentations on LCC activities.

### **South Atlantic LCC:**

- Supported by the Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution and Group Solutions, Inc., the Cooperative made significant progress in December on the development of a strategic plan and business plan. Input to the planning process was solicited and received, including interviews with each steering committee member and through survey data from over one hundred interested individuals and organizations. SALCC staff and a planning team completed the first draft of the plan and presented it to stakeholders and steering committee members for comments. The planning process will culminate during a steering committee meeting January 18-19. The [plan](#) will clearly establish five areas of focus for the SALCC, clarify our mission and guiding principles, and establish the top priorities over the next 12-18 months.
- SALCC staff continue to work with Marine Corps Installations East at Camp Lejeune, NC to support decision-making related to their conservation investments. Interim products are due in January.
- [Amy Keister](#) arrived in December to assume the GIS specialist position. The Cooperative now has a total of five full-time staff and [one staff shared by four Gulf coastal LCC's](#) with investments from FWS, NPS, USFS-SRS, and NOAA.
- Optimal Conservation Strategies prototype [update](#)
- Instream Flow product [updates](#)
- Landscape genetics pilot study [update](#)

### **Southern Rockies LCC:**

- The SRLCC participated in an effort among nine western LCCs to leverage funding for a proposal from the Yellowstone Ecological Research Center to produce GIS-Ready Data Products for Decision-Support: Creation and delivery of changing habitat conditions, disturbance types, and other newly available environmental data for the western US.
- The SRLCC accepted an invitation and participated on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Southwest Climate Science Center (SWCSC). The committee discussed how the SWCSC can assist LCCs with climate science needs.
- The SRLCC's Science Work Group (SWG) developed a set of specific criteria with which the SWG will identify priority science needs and associated projects for 2012 funding.
- The Tribal Advisory Work Group conferred on moving forward with an outreach strategy.
- On Jan 17 there will be a conference call among CO and NM state water resource management agencies and the Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs to discuss and identify science needs and projects specific to water resources across the two LCCs.
- On January 24-25 the SWG will meet in Denver to identify science needs, associated projects, and leveraging opportunities for recommendation to the Steering Committee for 2012 funding.

### **Upper Midwest and Great Lakes LCC:**

- Held LCC project coordinators meeting to establish unified approach to conservation science, progress of work, and shared aim of assisting conservation delivery.
- Completed FY 2012 Action Plan, featuring a Conservation Needs Assessment for the geography.
- Conservation Science Staff continuing assistance to FWS representative species planning.

- Held Steering Committee conference call. Actions include agreement on vision, mission, operating procedures, and approval of Action Plan.
- Initiated development of regional Fish Passage guidance and information sharing for Great Lakes conservation community.
- Met with CWS Regional Director - Ontario, and staff regarding LCC progress and overall conservation issues facing upper Midwest.
- Held briefing and listening session for USGS leadership regarding the Northeast CSC.
- Working with other LCCs, initiated coordination effort with Indiana bat and WNS communities of interest.
- Held webinars on a variety of topics of interest to science community.
- All actions are led by or involve members of both Steering and Technical committees.

### **Western Alaska LCC:**

- On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Western Alaska LCC (WALCC) Steering Committee reviewed recommendations made by an organizing group of 21 scientists and local experts (state, federal, NGO and Tribal participants) to refine the focus for LCC-sponsored activities in FY12 and FY13. Based on the group's recommendation, the Steering Committee drafted the major components of a short-term operating plan for the LCC initiating a pilot program focused on *Coastal Storms and their Impacts*. The pilot program will consist of a suite of projects all designed to improve our understanding about the effects of changing coastal storm patterns in western Alaska. This information will be valuable to decision makers in many agencies as well as to residents of western Alaska. New projects will be sponsored by the LCC to 1) inventory, and identify gaps, in existing coastal activities; 2) develop conceptual models to identify the most important areas of uncertainty; 3) expand opportunities for communities to assist in coastal change monitoring; 4) increase our understanding of shorefast ice dynamics; and 5) assess the impacts of coastal storms on biological resources. The purpose of initiating a pilot program is to demonstrate the utility and value-added nature of the LCC and the Alaska Climate Science Center (ACSC), while it concurrently completes its long-term strategic science planning process. The ACSC is an important partner in this effort and our short-term operating plans will be integrated to demonstrate that connection.
- The Steering Committee also agreed to initiate a "mini-pilot" program related to lake and stream temperature data. There is a state-wide need for a coordinated approach to collect and store lake and stream temperature data. As one of five LCCs in Alaska, the WALCC recognizes that a single LCC cannot solve this issue on its own, yet there is no concerted effort to address this concern at a regional level. Therefore, the WALCC with support from the ACSC will initiate the state-wide conversation and contribute funding to stimulate action at the statewide level.
- Upcoming events in January 2012 include a presentation at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium; recruiting for a pilot program manager; continued dialog with Tribal Councils in western Alaska (n=116); and a Steering Committee meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Steering Committee meeting will be focused on developing Request for Proposal language for the pilot program project areas listed as bullets 3, 4 and 5 above. In addition, both the LCC Coordinator and the Vice-Chair of the WALCC Steering Committee will be participating in the workshop to help develop the National LCC Council.